

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The telephone conference with returned phone call with the examiner on December 21, 2006 is acknowledged with thanks. In the conference, no claims were discussed and clarification was requested as to the proper procedure for filing a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

In the Advisory Action mailed 11/24/2006, the examiner continues to reject claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 14, 20, 21, 23, 31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Appelman et al. U.S. Patent 6,539,421 (hereinafter Appelman) in view of Morris et al. U.S. Patent 6,496,851 (hereinafter Morris). Claims 2-3, 5-9, 12-13, 15-19, 22, 24-30, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Appelman in view of Kapil et al. U.S. Patent 6,941,234 (hereinafter Kapil) in view of Morris et al.

The examiner submits that column 1, lines 65-58, column 2, lines 1-35, and Fig. 2 of Morris has an unidentified second client (Fig. 2 element 204) who have never met before and are unknown to each other (column 2, lines 18-26). The examiner cites column 2, lines 18-26 which states the second clients are clients who have never met before and are unknown to each other. The examiner states that just because the first client can view the second client's username does not mean that they know each other.

Independent claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 16, 20, 21, 25, and 29 have been amended to make clear that the seconds client's username, screenname, or other identifier is not displayed to the first user, and that the user requesting that a message be broadcast

to the group does not know to whom or how many subscribers or clients to which the message is published, and at the time of broadcast and after, the user does not know how many subscribers or clients the message reached.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 14, 20, 21, 23, 31, and 33 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Appelman in view of Morris, which allowance is respectfully requested. It is further respectfully submitted that claims 2-3, 5-9, 12-13, 15-19, 22, 24-30, and 32 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Appelman in view of Kapil in view of Morris, which allowance is requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

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